Upgradation of SEZs into EPZs and EPIPs

1875. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones which are in operation since the launching of the SEZ scheme;

(b) whether many SEZs now operational were upgraded to Export Processing Zones and also Export Promotion Industrial Parks; and

(c) the status of the flagship projects under the SEZ scheme namely Nanguneri (Tamil Nadu) and Positra (Gujarat)?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Eight Export Processing Zones (EPZs) located at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (U.P.), converted into Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are at present functional.

(c) SEZ projects at Naguneri and Positra are under implementation.

Incentives to various industries in NER

1876. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the fiscal incentives granted to various industries in the NER with duration, nature and target group entitled for such incentives;

(b) the objectives, date of commencement, present status and date of expiry of transport subsidy as per latest guidelines;

(c) whether the circumstances of allowing such incentives at commencement are different from now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, in what way Government propose to make the industries viable in those remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The Government have announced a New Industrial Policy and other concessions for the North-Eastern region (NEIP) on 24th December, 1997 for a period of 10 years which aims at attracting investors by giving them the following fiscal incentives during its operation:—

(i) Excise and Income Tax exemptions for a period of 10 years.

(ii) Subsidies, such as Transport Subsidy, Capital Investment Subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and premium for Comprehensive Insurance on capital investment. These schemes are valid upto 31.3.2007.

(iii) Promote Infrastructure development through Schemes like Growth Centre of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre (IIDC) of Ministry of Small Scale Industry.

These benefits are available to new units set up on or after 24.12.1997 and existing units on substantial expansions on or after 24.12.1997.

(b) the Transport Subsidy Scheme was introduced in July, 1971 to promote industrialisation in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas of the country and has been extended from time to time, and is now valid upto 31.3.2007.

(c) to (e) The impact of the various incentives under the new Industrial Policy (NEIP) on the industrialization in the North Eastern Region (NER) has been encouraging as seen from the number of industrial units set up (large and medium-sized, capital formation and employment generated. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of Projects (Medium and Large) after NEIP

State	No. of units	Capital Formation (Rs. in crore)	Employ-ment
Assam	400	874	30664
Meghalaya	32	101	2595
Tripura	23	12	364
Arunachal Pradesh	5	10	140
Nagaland	1	Nil	Nil

State	No. of units	Capital Formation (Rs. in crore)	Employ-ment
Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
NER Total	461	997	33763

Demand and supply of spices in the Country

†1877. PROF M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the regions where spices are produced in the country;

(b) the details of demand and supply of spices in the country during the last three years;

(c) the quantum of spices exported and foreign exchange earned by Government during the said period; and

(d) the effective steps taken by Government for increasing the production of spices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Spices are produced in almost all the States in India. However, major spice producing States include Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) It is estimated that 90 to 92% of the domestic production of spices is consumed within the country. The total production in the country has been as below:

Year	Production (Thousand Tons)
1998-1999	3091
1999-2000	3023
2000-2001 *	3048

'Provisional
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.